



ASIAN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

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Asian Women Entrepreneurs Announces 2014 Lotus and Scholarship Awardees

Each year Asian Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) celebrates the exemplary successes that Asian American Business Enterprises have achieved in Southern California at our Rise of the Lotus Awards Luncheon.

The Asian Women Entrepreneurs' 10th Annual awards luncheon, "Rise of the Lotus 2014," will present awards to two businesswomen and honor six students with scholarships on Friday, October 10, at 11:30 a.m. at the White House in Anaheim.

Talk show host Marissa Pei will receive the business person of the year award. With a doctorate in organizational psychology, Dr. Pei has been speaking, coaching and facilitating to hundreds of organizations, including Fortune 100 companies such as Johnson & Johnson, Wells Fargo, AT&T, Mattel, UPS and Bank of America for the past 21 years.

Dr. Pei has parlayed her professional experience onto television as a "talking shrink head" on a number of ABC, Discovery, Learning Channel and Fox TV specials, commenting on why people do weird things at work and other interesting human dynamics; and onto the stage, as an internationally sought-after motivational speaker and lecturer, in China, Europe and throughout the US. She is a best-selling author of 2 books.

Carrie Mizera will be the recipient of the Rising Lotus Award for people in business for less than five years. Mizera, the executive director of Renascence School International, Orange County Campus, was born in China during the post Cultural Revolution Era and grew up in Hong Kong. She is fluent in three Chinese dialects and has always been interested in learning new languages.

With the support of her husband and other prospective parents, Renaissance School International, Orange County Campus, was established in September 2011. The school has grown from 19 students when it first opened to about 90 students. The school has received the Academic Excellence Award from the Renaissance School International's corporate office for three years in a row.

Scholarship winners are Megan Doan, Ngoc Kim Duong, Jacquelyn Hirzel (Edison Scholar), Thuy Le, Michelle Martir and Megan Ward.

Megan Doan is a Vietnamese American born and raised in Westminster, California. A junior attending California State University, Fullerton, she completed her first two years of college at Golden West Community College and obtained an Associate of Arts Degree. She is studying toward a Bachelor Arts in Business Administration with a concentration in Entertainment and Tourism Management with the goals of working in the hospitality industry managing hotel operations and traveling around the world. While attending Golden West College, she was a teaching assistant for an accounting professor and treasurer and historian of the Korean Culture Club. She also volunteered at Rosswood Villa Senior Complex for Beauty Day, organizing residents' information, and translating for Vietnamese seniors. Her interests include literature and music.

Ngoc Kim Duong is studying at Coastline Community College more than 2 years. She is involved in various service projects, such as serving food at Honda World, taking children to the Los Angeles Zoo and helping in the neighborhood. She is proud to be able to help people. Her goal is to eventually obtain a Master's Degree in Business Administration so that she can have a good life while continuing to help people.

Born and raised in Fullerton, Jacquelyn Hirzel (Edison Scholar) developed an interest in science at Lutheran High School of Orange County. After starting at Concordia University, Irvine, her interest in science grew into a passion. Now a senior, she is the first physics major at Concordia and is also double majoring in mathematics. She spent last summer researching in the chemical physics lab on campus and looks forward to many summers of research to come. Jacquelyn is also the president of Concordia's Astronomy Club where students are able to observe the heavens and have speakers come to help them understand more about what is out there. Starting in middle school and continuing on through college, Jacquelyn has been developing her skills as a trombonist and is currently principal trombonist in the Concordia Wind Orchestra.

Thuy Ly did not have the chance to go to college when she graduated from high school in Vietnam. When she came to the United States, she moved to Westminster and chose Coastline Community College to start her education. She became gerontology major to find a temporary job in a nursing home, but she has changed her major to business to transfer to California State University, Long Beach, to get a bachelor's degree. Last semester, her GPA was 3.62. She

volunteers to serve food for the homeless once a month at Pho Quang Temple. In Vietnam, she served food to seniors with disabilities every day for four years. Thuy Ly hopes to find a job to support her family, then build a small business and then open a nursing home for poor seniors in Vietnam who do not have relatives.

Michelle Martir, 20, attends Concordia University. She is starting her fourth year and hopes to graduate in Spring 2015. Born and raised in Santa Ana, California, she comes from a large, close-knit family. She loves to read, watch movies and listen to Spanish music. Her favorite place on earth is a small town in Michoacán, Mexico, called Yurecuaro. After she establishes her career, she wishes to go back to Yurecuaro and help in any way she can.

Megan Ward recently graduated from Los Alamitos High School with a 3.8 and a 4.0 her senior year. She was very involved in school leadership and honors courses and was president of the Christian club on campus. Megan has a heart for the community and has been overseas several times on humanitarian projects such as retrofitting bomb shelters in Israel on the Lebanese border twice, assisting victims of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and going to Mexico three times to build houses for those in need, including working with the children of the local villages. She has served as a volunteer at Cottonwood Church youth department for more than 5 years and has the desire to teach children both locally and overseas as well as going on more humanitarian trips.

Asian Women Entrepreneurs is a nonprofit public-benefit corporation that advocates for and in behalf of Asian and Asian-American women entrepreneurs educating and strengthening their potentials as business owners. Asian Women Entrepreneurs seeks to fulfill the unmet need among Asian American business women seeking entrepreneurial support and cultural camaraderie to be themselves free from the stereotype associated with Asian women.

The mission of Asian Women Entrepreneurs is to assist Asian Pacific Women realize their entrepreneurial potential, promoting their entrepreneurial skills in a dynamic business environment; identifying specific needs of Asian Pacific Women, providing available resources through entrepreneurial networking opportunities to assist members to grow their businesses to the next level.

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